



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS RECEIVES TOP ENVIRONMENTAL HONOR

"Frank E. VanLare Award" presented to County Executive at NYC Conference

Recognized once again for her environmental stewardship and commitment to renewable energy resource development, **County Executive Maggie Brooks** was awarded the "Frank E. VanLare Award" from the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA). The honor was presented today at NYWEA's 79th Annual Meeting, held at New York City's Marriott Marquis hotel.

*"I am truly honored to receive this award, and grateful for NYWEA's recognition of our success in protecting the air we breathe, and the water we drink," said **Brooks**. "Our commitment to renewable energy development, water protection and environmental education has made Monroe County a state leader in preserving our natural environment."*

The award recognizes the outstanding contributions and commitment of an elected official in support of environmental initiatives, with a focus on water resources, wastewater facilities and water quality preservation. It is named for Frank E. VanLare, a former Rochester City Councilman and New York State Senator who helped develop the New York State Pure Waters Program.

Brooks was recognized for her leadership in fostering programs and efforts that help protect Monroe County's environmental resources. These include the energy resource development at the Mill Seat Landfill, a green cleaning product program used at County facilities, new recycling initiatives for public events to divert plastic and glass drink containers from entering landfills, and other water quality initiatives to restore and preserve the County's water resources.

In addition, the County Executive was recognized for maintaining a sustainable environmental policy. Under the leadership of County Executive Brooks, Monroe County has developed several educational tools for to promote environmental protection. These include a water quality education program to inform the public about non-point source pollution entering County waterways, and a program for grade-schoolers on the importance of the "Three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle," which included the distribution of the 2006-2007 "Chet the Cheetah" calendar.

NYWEA is a statewide, nonprofit organization of 2,100 environmental engineers and water quality management professionals. This is the second environmental award in the past month that the County Executive Brooks has received. She was awarded the "Elected Officials Award" from American Public Works Association on January 25 of this year.

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